THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Governments of India and Malaysia have agreed to strengthen cooperation in the information technology and services sector **and have** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in May 2001, The scope of this MOU is as follow:

- Electronic-commerce and multimedia development;
- Electronic government;
- Information security and cyber crime;
- Human resource development;
- Research, design and development; and
- Exploring third country markets.

Utilization of Employment Exchanges

*24. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:
SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that now -a-days employment exchanges in the country are playing little role in getting employment to the educated unemployed; and;

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to utilize these employment exchanges in a more fruitful manner?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) 50 to 55 percent of the Placement made by the Employment Exchanges in a year is of educated job seekers (10th and above) registered with the Employment Exchanges.

The Employment Exchanges have following two major functions in addition to Registration and Placement of the Job-seekers:

(i) Collection of Labour Market Information for creation of data-base in the assessment of demand and supply of labour, preparing career literature for Counselling and Vocational Guidance; and

(ii) Career-counselling & vocational guidance to the job-seekers so as to help them in shaping their careers.

In the present employment-unemployment scenario, the activities being performed by the Employment Exchanges are of great importance.

Projects under MPLADS

*25. SHRI SANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a legislation to regulate recommendation, sanction and execution of projects under MPLADS;

(b) whether existing guidelines are proposed to be amended; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The existing Guidelines on MPLADS have been revised and issued on 16 11.2005. The details thereof are given in the statement.

Statement

Detailed Guidelines on MPLADS

Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is under implementation since 1993-94. The Guidelines under the Scheme were revised from time to time and lastly it was revised in April, 2002. Subsequently, certain clariftcatory circulars have been issued. Now, a comprehensive revision has been made and a fresh set of Guidelines has been issued on 16th November, 2005. These Guidelines are based on the feed back received from Hon'ble MPs, the suggestions of the Committees on MPLADS (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha), the observations made by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and the operational experience of the monitoring of the scheme.

In the revised Guidelines, some of the improvements are as under:

i) Important sectors like drinking water, education, public health, sanitation and roads have been given priority.